

Maqsudi's 85-year-old grandmother, an Uzbek citizen. The relatives, nearly all women and children, were driven 13 hours to the Afghan border and dumped on the other side.

"They said, 'None of you will live in this country. This is our country,'" Maqsudi says.

Karimova denies any involvement and says that officials may have simply taken advantage of the moment because Maqsudi's family had long flouted passport requirements. "Most of his relatives—and there were a lot of them—did not have proper papers," she says. If it were her choice, she added, "I could have deported them later. I would have been much more sophisticated."

Both of the estranged spouses went to court. An Uzbek judge granted Karimova a divorce, while a New Jersey jurist granted one to Maqsudi. Maqsudi faces arrest if he sets foot in Uzbekistan and Karimova if she sets foot in the United States. Since both warrants are filed with Interpol, neither can safely travel to Europe. "A civilized divorce," Danny DeVito's character says in "The War of the Roses," "is a contradiction in terms."

THE LARGER RELATIONSHIP

In recent months, both sides in the Uzbek divorce war have enlisted lobbyists and lawmakers in Washington to hurl charges and deflect countercharges. Karimova's camp accuses Maqsudi's firms of import-export shenanigans and various illegal practices. The most sensational allegation is that Maqsudi family companies snipped oil from Iraq while Saddam Hussein was in charge.

One key witness for Karimova, however, was former Maqsudi employee Farhod Inogambayev, who has since fled Uzbekistan and recanted his statements. "Everything was lies," he says now in an interview from New Jersey.

After her separation from her husband, Karimova sent for him, Inogambayev says, and told him, "Forget about Mansur. Now let's do business together." Afraid for his family, he says, he went to work for her. She sent over men to have him swear out affidavits against her estranged husband. "I blindly signed, I blindly typed whatever they said. I just wanted them to leave me."

Not only does Inogambayev now disavow the charges, he also alleges that Karimova siphoned tens of millions of dollars out of Uzbekistan through various channels, including her own Citibank account. And he claims that she took over a tourism firm that arranges visas for Uzbek travelers and used it to control the flow of Uzbek prostitutes to Dubai.

Karimova dismisses the allegations, calling them "more than crazy and more than stupid," and contends that Inogambayev only "says that for money."

Maqsudi's Washington lobbyists, led by Richard A. Zimmer, a Republican former congressman from New Jersey, have gained some traction. Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.) raised the Interpol arrest warrant against Maqsudi during an October hearing, calling it "an abuse of power by the Uzbek president." In February, Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to look into the prostitution allegations, saying, "We ought to be following it up very rigorously."

On the other side, Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) has taken up Karimova's cause, requesting that Attorney General John Ashcroft investigate allegations made against Maqsudi in Uzbekistan.

Asked about the case in private, uncomfortable U.S. officials decline to say much. For the record, they call it "an international child abduction case" and say they have told

Tashkent "that these issues are unnecessary irritants in the U.S.-Uzbek relationship," according to a written State Department response to congressional inquiries last year.

Uzbek officials appear no more eager to talk about it. "It's a very complicated issue, and I think we should be very sensitive in touching this very delicate issue," Foreign Minister Sadyk Safayev said in an interview in Tashkent last fall. The two countries' relationship has burdens enough. The United States wants to keep the military base it opened in Uzbekistan after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Yet under increasing pressure from human rights groups, the Bush administration warned recently that it may cut off financial aid if Karimov's record does not improve.

It's possible the question may ultimately fall to his daughter. Analysts in Tashkent suspect that the 66-year-old president is ill and speculate that Karimova is positioning herself to succeed him. Others assume she is setting herself up in business with assets abroad in case the family has to flee.

Maqsudi believes that his ex-wife has the ambition to try to take over the country. "She's tasted power and what power can bring in Uzbekistan," he says. "At times I would say to her, when we would have arguments, 'You're drunk with your father's power.' They don't want to relinquish or give up the power they have."

WILLIAM T. ROBINSON III HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and effective community leader, William T. Robinson III, who will be honored for his distinguished service to our community by the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at its 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Bill has been a dedicated community volunteer for more than thirty years. He has served NCCJ as Board Member, Treasurer, Co-Chair and is currently Board Member Emeritus. He has also taken a leadership role in his profession as President of the Kentucky Bar Association; founding Chair of the Kentucky IOLTA Fund; President of the Kentucky Bar Foundation; and Co-Founder and President of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law American Inn of Court.

At the national level, Bill's service is exceptional. He is currently Treasurer-Elect of the American Bar Association (ABA). Previously, Bill has been Chair of the ABA's Finance Committee, and a Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. He has also served as State Delegate to the ABA Nominating Committee; President of the National Caucus of State Bar Associations; Member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents; and Chairman of the ABA's Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the ABA's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse. He is an invited Fellow of the International Society

of Barristers; a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; and a Sustaining Member of the American Bar Foundation.

Bill has been critically involved in our region's growth and economic development. Currently, he serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and Chair of its Finance Committee. He co-founded the Metropolitan Growth Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and serves as Vice Chair for Economic Development for the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Partnership for Greater Cincinnati, and a Founding Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of the Tri-County Economic Development Commission.

Bill's community involvement also includes service as Advisory Trustee of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; and a board member of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts; and Mount St. Joseph College.

His previous awards are impressive: the Cincinnati Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award; the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award; the Cincinnati Bar Association's Themis Award; and the Governor's Economic Development Award for Kentucky.

Bill is Member-In-Charge of the Greater Cincinnati offices of Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC. He and his wife, Joan, have two sons and one granddaughter.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Bill for his untiring dedication to our area, and congratulate him on receiving this honor from an organization where he has played an important leadership role.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RENEE ELIZABETH BURDICK, OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Renee Elizabeth Burdick, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Renee is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Renee is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School. Aside from her perfect 4.0 grade point average, she possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Youth Engaged in Service. Renee also excels in several mediums of art, including pottery.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to